THE FLYLEAF

PUBLISHED BY THE
FRIENDS OF THE
FONDREN LIBRARY
AT THE RICE INSTITUTE
HOUSTON, TEXAS

THE FLYLEAF

Quarterly
Vol. IX, No. 2 January 1959

ENGLISH LITERATURE FROM 1700 TO 1800 -- THE FONDREN LIBRARY

The dash in the above title may be filled by "and" or "in", or, in defiance of grammar, by both. The purpose of these comments is not to give a comprehensive report of the holdings of the Fondren Library in this field, but simply to illustrate by some examples of different degrees of importance the kind of material we have sought and prized. First of all, the Axson Collection of British plays falls within this period; it was reported on briefly at the time of its acquisition two years ago, and will not be described again at length in the present article. "High spots" could easily be indicated in the Axson Collection, but its strength lies largely in its comprehensiveness, its continuity, and,--an important point which is sometimes overlooked--in the fact that it was brought together by a bibliographer, so that minor variants which may be significant for the history of the publication of the plays are included. Thus, when Miss J. E. Norton recently published bibliographies of the dramatists Susannah Centlivre and Hannah Cowley in the Book Collector, I was able to report to her from the Axson Collection additional variants which she had not seen in the British collections she had used. The innumerable points of significance that will come out here in one connection or another cannot be anticipated, but another trivial example may be given. When one has been studying the poet James Thomson for a long time, it means something to find that the copy of Agamemnon in the Axson

Collection is inscribed "From the Author" in Thomson's hand.

We now leave the Axson Collection and give two examples connected with the question of identifying and locating first editions. Identification can get very technical. Thus Night the Third of Edward Young's Night Thoughts was first advertised in December, 1742, with a note: "Page 7, Line 15, for merry read mazy." All copies seen by Young's bibliographer Henry Pettit had a cancel for this leaf with the corrected reading mazy. A copy of the first state with the reading merry was reported from the London Library. At about this time a set of the Night Thoughts (all firsts except Night the First) was acquired by Fondren, and, sure enough, in Night the Third appeared the reading merry. This will not flutter the dovecotes particularly, but quiet gratification counts for something. Again, in 1949 Professor Benjamin Boyce brought out a reprint of an important early piece of fiction, The Adventures of Lindamira, A Lady of Quality. London: Richard Wellington, 1702. He remarked in his preface, "The text of the present edition is based on that of the possibly unique copy of the first edition belonging to the University of Minnesota Library." Fondren also has a copy of this first edition. You never can tell what you will find when you go "sleuthing in the stacks."

Of the really spectacular first editions in this period we have few or none. These are sometimes thought of as collectors' rather than libraries' buys at present, though of course the collector may befriend the library. This is not to say, however, that we do not have many important early editions of eighteenth century books available for the scholar's work. Up to recent years these books could be got at modest prices,

while high bidders converged upon firsts of a few collected authors, such as Pope, Swift, and Johnson, and great rarities like the Kilmarnock Burns. We have done fairly well on poetry, and with the steady aid of the Friends we now have an excellent sequence of firsts of the most important novels of the century (most of them, but not Robinson Crusoe or Pamela). We were able a few years ago to muster an excellent exhibition of Gothic novels. Concerning the not fully charted field of early fiction I should like to quote a few words from a brief report I wrote for the Newberry Library two years ago on this subject (Newberry Library Bulletin, September, 1956):

> Not even the greatest library can hope to cover the field completely, but a well developed research library can still hope to put at the disposal of the student a segment of the material large enough for fresh and independent work. Such work is still necessary, for our conclusions and generalizations here are still inadequate. Without exaggerating the importance of the subject, it may fairly be said that we have no precise knowledge in this area comparable to what we have, say, for sixteenth and seventeenth century drama.

We cannot study the literature of a period by exclusive concentration on the great things. A great supporting body of material is necessary for which space fails us to enumerate the kinds--philosophy, history, divinity, biography, periodicals. (Or course much of this material is important in its own right, and is viewed as auxiliary only from the special point of view of literary study.) This is the vast area which for the typical research library must eventually be covered in large part by microfilm or microcard, a theme I will not develop at this point. But, to touch on only one other important topic, the more early periodicals we have on the shelves in bound volumes, the better. The eighteenth century saw the development of the magazine or review, the general periodical that touched all phases of the life of the period. A single file like the Gentleman's Magazine is of incalculable value, and the scholar who has learned its true use will always be returning to it. We extend some distance beyond the fundamental files of the Gentleman's, the London, and the Scots. We have the Critical Review on microfilm, and shall probably have to content ourselves with microfilms of the rarer magazines and reviews, and also, eventually, of the newspapers, in which historians and students of literature have a joint interest.

Meanwhile, it is important that we should not let the acquisition of recent and contemporary books--no matter how scholarly, popular, and attractive--divert us from the steady accumulation of primary material. What I have tried to touch on in this statement is the real stuff, no matter how grubby, irrelevant, or unattractive it may

appear. In no sense and to no extent can it be superseded for the serious student by the current slick-paper job, complete with blurb and dust-jacket.

ALAN D. McKILLOP

"Formerly the duty of a librarian was considered too much that of a watch-dog, to keep people as much as possible away from the books, and to hand these over to his successor as little worn by use as he could. Librarians now, it is pleasant to see, have a different notion of their trust, and are in the habit of preparing, for the direction of the inexperienced, lists of such books as they think best worth reading."

James Russell Lowell, at the opening of the Free Public Library in Chelsea, Massachusetts, 22nd of December, 1885.

RESEARCH IN CONTINENTAL AND BRITISH ARCHIVES: A COMPARISON

Twice during the past six years I have had the opportunity of doing research in Europe, once in Continental archives and once in libraries, public and private, in England. It has been my privilege, therefore, to compare the facilities provided by various types of manuscript repositories in the two places, and the result is that I have seen what I consider to be both correct and awkward methods of preserving valuable manuscript material and making it available to scholars. The primary impression gained from this experience was that everything possible, consistent with the proper care of the material, should be done to facilitate the scholar's work. This remark will, at first glance, seem to belabor the obvious; yet I have observed that many times a curator of manuscripts will think that all is in order, when actually all is in disorder, and the students who are using his facilities hesitate to tell him what is wrong.

Of primary importance is the manner in which the manuscripts are preserved. I realize that to criticize the methods used in the archives in Vienna, where I worked during the academic year 1952-53, is a bit unfair, for the amount of material which the keepers must handle is enormous and has been collected over hundreds of years, much of it before methods of cataloguing were formulated. Nevertheless, research there was an up-hill process.

My task was to examine confidential administrative reports made by various officials in Italy and Greece to Metternich's government during the period 1816-1825. Although the members of the staff at the archives were quite efficient and helpful, I felt that the entire process was too much dependent upon them. The reports were not bound, but were tied together between two pieces of heavy cardboard by a stout cord. Each bundle was about a foot thick and contained all of the reports from a certain area for a given year. They were not catalogued by number, but were identified by place and year, i.e., "Rome, 1818." Once the cord was loosened sheets were likely to get out of order (many of them did), so that one was often hard put to find a report he knew must be in the bundle, but which had become misplaced. There had been an attempt to index the material in these reports, but the indexes were necessarily inadequate; it would be next to impossible to satisfy each student's needs in this respect, considering the mass of material which had to be catalogued. It was necessary, therefore, to work laboriously through each packet, looking at each page, in order to miss as little as possible. And even so, who could be sure that something had not slipped by unnoticed? The most common language was German (a scrawling, nineteenth-century German script), with French running a close second, and a fair sprinkling of Italian, a polyglot situation which increased the chances of overlooking something.

Because of its poor methods of cataloguing, preservation, and indexing, this system depends too much upon the memory of the staff members. I was fortunate, because Frau Dr. Benna, the Assistant Keeper of Manuscripts at the Court Archives, had a remarkable memory, not only for locating material in the archives, but for giving me valuable information about work that had preceded mine, from which I could learn much about my subject. But what will happen when Frau Dr. Benna turns over her work to someone less gifted? You, my friend, will have a harder time than I did; and even with her help, hours were spent in going through material which she located, in order to find the one report that had strayed from its nook or to track down a name that was not indexed.

This system was not peculiar to the Court Archives. I found very much the same arrangement at the University of Vienna. The most rudimentary methods of cataloguing were used, and much depended upon the efficiency and memory of the person in charge.

It would be sanguine to say that the Manuscript Room of the British Museum is a perfect place in which to work, but it does have great advantages over the archives in Vienna. Chief among these is the manner in which the manuscripts are preserved: they are neatly gummed to the blank pages of separate volumes, which vary in size. These volumes are catalogued and the manuscripts are assigned folio numbers. Thus, the designation Add MS 37210 f160 indicates that there is a letter from Thomas Moore to Leigh Hunt in Additional Manuscript #37210, folio #160. It is a comforting thought to know that one cannot misplace this letter and that the only way he

could lose it would be to lose the entire volume, which, under the necessary restrictions in the Manuscript Room, is an impossibility.

Fear of losing a manuscript is always with one when he is working with a private collection. I experienced this feeling at one private library at which I worked with almost two hundred unpublished and uncatalogued letters. In the first place, the method of handling them could easily admit of loss. They were transported three times a day from an upstairs office, downstairs, through a public corridor, through two doors separated by a rather dark inner corridor, and into an office which had been assigned to me. The letters were in several packets, arranged in some esoteric order known only to the owner, who had his own cataloguing system, which he carried in his head. After I had made copies of the letters in this collection, I discovered that there was one which I wanted to see again. I couldn't find it! I counted the letters in this packet and found that the number was still the same as when I started using them, but search as I would, I could not locate the missing letter. Several days later (after nights punctuated by sudden starts of wakefulness) I found the letter in another file, where it had no logical reason to be, but where I carefully replaced it, knowing that to tamper with the arrangement would only upset the filing system worked out by the owner and thus lose the letter for him. The experience impressed me with the necessity of placing manuscript material in a volume, where it is not only accessible, but safe.

A few remarks about what not to file with manuscripts might not be amiss. While at one of the archives in Vienna, I came across an oddly wrapped package attached to one of the documents. When I unfolded the wrappings, out fell a heavy silver signet ring. A note on the packet informed me that the ring was used by Napoleon when he was in Austria. This treasure should have been across the street in the Hofburg Museum, not lying practically loose with a batch of official documents; but who was I, a wandering student, to question the filing system of the Staatsarchiv? I carefully replaced the ring in its envelope among the documents, where, I trust, it will rest for another century and a half, until some academician like myself will come across it. Perhaps this man of the late twenty-first century will respectfully suggest that the ring really ought to be somewhere else. Or, who knows, I might make such a suggestion myself, if I ever go back to Vienna.

It isn't likely that the small library will come into possession of Napoleon's ring, but what will it do, for example, with a miniature which is included among valuable manuscripts obtained from a family? The easy thing would be to place it with the document which describes it. The safest thing would be to place it in the repository provided for such museum pieces, with an attached note citing the document, which is in turn catalogued and filed in its proper place.

The library which has begun its collecting in recent years and still does not have an unwieldy mass of material to handle is in an excellent position to work out a safe, convenient means of preserving its manuscripts. It need not be imitative; but a long view must be taken, and a policy established which can be followed with confidence as the treasures mount.

W. S. DOWDEN

"Cataloging has also, thanks in great measure to American librarians, become a science, and catalogues, ceasing to be labyrinths without a clue, are furnished with finger-posts at every turn. Subject catalogues again save the beginner a vast deal of time and trouble by supplying him for nothing with one at least of the results of thorough scholarship, the knowing where to look for what he wants."

--James Russell Lowell

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of	Donor
Mrs. E. D. Adams	Mr. & Mrs. George R. Brown Mr. & Mrs. Herman Brown Mrs. Preston Moore
G. F. Alsbrook, Jr.	The Sarah Lane Literary Society Mr. & Mrs. William J. Sloan
James Ervin Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Anderson Mrs. Preston Moore
Martha Elizabeth Arnold	Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Aston Mr. & Mrs. Chester R. Gosnell
William Stephen Backus	Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Anderson
Mrs. John Benjamin Boxley	Mr. & Mrs. Alan D. McKillop Pender Turnbull Mr. & Mrs. George W. Whiting
Mrs. Fleta Briggs	Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Dwyer
Franz H. Brogniez	Mrs. Franz H. Brogniez
Asa C. Chandler	Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Camden Mr. & Mrs. Jack E. Conner Mr. & Mrs. J. T. McCants
William Davis Cleveland	Margaret Scott Bailey Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Dissen Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Hamilton Mrs. Preston Moore Mrs. Perry Olcott Mr. & Mrs. Andrew E. Rutter Mr. & Mrs. Radoslav A. Tsanoff

In Memory of	Donor
Mrs. Lynch Davidson	Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Anderson
Mrs. Eunice H. Defoor	Mrs. Lorraine Gresham Sarah L. Lane May Elise Moraud
Mrs. H. E. Detering, Sr.	Mr. & Mrs. Herman Brown
John K. Dorrance	Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Anderson
Ray L. Dudley	Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Anderson
Herbert H. Fischer	Mr. & Mrs. Robert V.Haynes
William H. Francis, Jr.	Mrs. Preston Moore
Mrs. Clara Garrison	Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Dyer
William H. Gibbons, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Anderson
Mrs. Mary McAshan Gibbs	Mrs. Perry Olcott
A. S. Gray	Mrs. Wallace F. Lovejoy
Mrs. John Green	Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Anderson
Mrs. Robert E. Griffey	Dr. & Mrs. Edward H. Boice Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Dwyer Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Hamilton Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Maurice
Mrs. Tolar Hamblen	Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Anderson
H. M. Harris	Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Harrison, Sr.	Beatrice Harrison

In Memory of	Donor
Claude W. Heaps	Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Anderson Mr. & Mrs. Andre Bourgeois Mr. & Mrs. Porter Heaps Mrs. Perry Olcott Mrs. Joseph H. Pound & Family
Harry Hilliard	Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Anderson
Alec Hubert	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph F. Meyer, III
Le Roy Jaenecke	George Harris
Dr. Herman Johnson	Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Anderson Mrs. Preston Moore
Dr. Violet H. Keiller	Mabel M. Keiller
E. L. Keyser	Mr. & Mrs. H. R. Galloway
William M. King	Mr. & Mrs. W. Browne Baker
Dorsey E. Kinney	Mr. & Mrs. Val T. Billups Mr. & Mrs. Hugh M. Stewart
Stephen Kirner	Mr. & Mrs. S. G. McCann Mrs. Joseph H. Pound & Family Mr. & Mrs. Radoslav A.Tsanoff Pender Turnbull Anne H. Wheeler
Joseph A. Kunetka	Mrs. William Kehoe Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Kehoe
A. E. Lewis	Mr. & Mrs. Harvin C. Moore Wiess College

In Memory of	Donor
Edgar Odell Lovett	Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Anderson Mr. & Mrs. George R. Brown Mr. & Mrs. Herman Brown
Malcolm Scott McCorquodale	Mr. George T. Barrow Mr. & Mrs. Walter H.Hebert
J. Curtis McKallip	Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Dwyer
Mrs. Mary E. McKallip	Mr. & Mrs. Ben Anderson
Angus McLeod	Mr. George R. Brown Mr. Herman Brown
Tony Martino	Sarah L. Lane
Elmo Blair Meroney	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Van Buskirk
Paul Bruce Minchew	Mr. & Mrs. Harvin Moore
Hugh F. Montgomery	Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Anderson Mr. & Mrs. George R. Brown Mr. & Mrs. Herman Brown Mrs. Preston Moore
Minnie L. Noble	Mr.& Mrs. I. Lee Campbell Mr. & Mrs. James I.Campbell Mr. & Mrs. John M. Seltzer
Perry Olcott	Mrs. Preston Moore
George O'Leary	Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Maurice
C. C. Osenbaugh	Mr. & Mrs. Claxton Parks
Mrs. Armanda Pahl	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Philibert

In Memory of	Donor
W. A. Parish	Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Dwyer Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Hamilton Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Tapley Mr. & Mrs. Milton R. Underwood
D. D. Peden	Mrs. Preston Moore
Woodrow Wilson Read	Mrs. Ethel Read Lennie
Ben Street Reed	Mr. & Mrs. Hugh E. Gragg
Benjamin Botts Rice	Margaret Scott Bailey Mr. & Mrs. James A. Baker, Jr. Battelstein's Inc. Mr. & Mrs. Laurence S. Bosworth Mr. & Mrs. George R. Brown Mrs. A. S. Cleveland Mrs. George B. Coale Mr. & Mrs. Harold Coley, Jr. Mrs. Lee F. Cowan Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Dwyer Mrs. W. S. Farish Mrs. Lorraine M. Gresham Houston Bank & Trust Company Mrs. James P. Houstoun Mrs. W. S. Hunt & Family Mr. & Mrs. Grover Jones Mrs. Selden Leavell Mrs. R. C. Meysenburg Mrs. Preston Moore Mr. & Mrs. Henry Oliver Rockwell Brothers Mr. & Mrs. H. M. Stewart Mrs. J. Lewis Thompson Mrs. Robert W. Wier Mr. & Mrs. James O. Winston

In Memory of	Donor
Colonel Arthur M. Risdon	Mr. & Mrs. Claxton Parks
The Rev. A. P. Robb	Mr. & Mrs. W. M. Rust, Jr.
Mrs. J. A. Roberdeau	Mrs. Preston Moore
Cora L. Schallock	Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Hamilton
Mrs. J. Paul Schumacher	Mrs. Joseph H. Pound & Family
Nelson C. Sears	Mr. & Mrs. Robert K. Jewett Mr. & Mrs. E. E. Sheffield
Mrs. James L. Shepherd, Jr.	William J. Condon Mrs. Selden Leavell Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Letts Mrs. Preston Moore Mr. & Mrs. Claxton Parks Mr. & Mrs. V. P. Ringer
Mrs. Anna C. Smith	Mr. & Mrs. Alan D. McKillop John Parish Pender Turnbull
Quentin Stahl	Ann Gossman Mrs. Henry L. Gossman
Charles E. Stokes	Mr. & Mrs. George R. Brown
Marshall Stone	Mr. & Mrs. George R. Brown Mr. & Mrs. Herman Brown
Archibald Scott Telfer	Mr. & Mrs. Claxton Parks Paul, Helen & Cecilia Roney
Mrs. Beatrice S. Terrell	Mrs. Betty Jean Kolenda

In Memory of	Donor
Alfred S. Thorwaldson	Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Hamilton
John Laurence Tryon III	Mr. James P. Barefield Mr. John C. Bianchi Allen Butler Mrs. J. W. Jockusch Mrs. Ethlyn Krehmeier Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Schley Mrs. Christine Schley Walt Silvus Sally Rowland Wheeler
Kirkland Vandervoort	Mr. & Mrs. Paul H. Aves Mrs. Preston Moore
Mrs. David Weintraub	Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Hamilton
Anita Taylor Wells	Mrs. B. E. Brewer Mrs. Lorraine Gresham Sarah L. Lane May Elise Moraud Pender Turnbull
Damon Wells	Mr. & Mrs. George R. Brown
Franklin W. Williams	Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Dwyer
Andrew C. Wood	Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Anderson Mr. & Mrs. Cooper K.Ragan
Evans Woollen, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Hamilton
Mrs. Ida Wyatt	Beatrice Harrison

FRIENDS OF THE FONDREN LIBRARY

AT THE RICE INSTITUTE

President, Carl Illig
Vice President, Mrs. Robert J. Cummins
Membership Secretary, Mrs. Charles W. Hamilton
Recording Secretary, Mrs. John Mason, Jr.
Treasurer, Charles W. Hamilton

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mrs. Edward W. Kelley
Mrs. W. A. Kirkland
Wendel D. Ley
Charles F. Squire
Robert B. Turner

Wilfred S. Dowden, Editor, the FLYLEAF
Raemond Craig, Publication